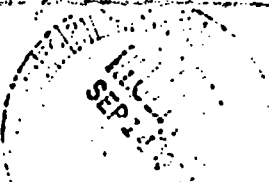




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C. F. Lecher

St. Louis Park

P. E. White

September 12, 1967

ST. LOUIS PARK FIRE INSURANCE
Letter of September 5, 1967

Mr. Finch has asked that I comment on your captioned letter.

As a result of our losses last September and October, Reilly Lab Engineering Department recommendations, and the pitch handling conference last January, we have made the following changes.

1. Probably the most important factor that we have, by example and instruction, showed our people is the hazards of handling hot pitch. They are now aware of these hazards and are using much more common sense in dealing with them. We have posted written instructions on handling the pitch for our people to follow, and they are following these instructions. This influence also carried over into the training of a new pumpman. It is our responsibility as the plant's management to keep up the training and educational efforts to prevent a recurrence of the past trouble.
2. We have installed explosion (sawing) hatches and dip tubes on both our pitch tanks, storage 19 and 20.
3. We have replaced the bad air condenser on Storage 20 and have added an air condenser on Storage 19. (Note: originally Storage 19 used the condenser on Storage 20, but, as recommended by the Engineering Department, we provided separate condensers).
4. We discontinued using our pitch cooler. In the event that we have to use the cooler, we have hooked up a separate blowdown line so that we can steam out the cooler without blowing into our hot pitch tank.
5. We installed a setup so that all valves can be turned from the ground. This keeps personnel off the top of our pitch tanks.
6. We have replaced all oil soaked insulation on our pitch tanks and are keeping a careful watch to see that no more oil fumes or pitch gets into the insulation. Part of this vapor protection includes the heavy gauge aluminum siding to protect the insulation..
7. We have gone over our system and installed expansion joints where needed to prevent the accidental cracking of pitch handling equipment. This, of course, is another effort to prevent oil soaking our insulation.

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8. We have installed a hose reel with 150 feet of 1 1/2 inch fire hose in the pitch tank area for first aid fire protection.

It has now been almost a year since our first explosion, and I feel that we have gained back the confidence of our people, as well as operating the pitch handling in a much safer manner.

Very truly yours,

Paul E. White

Paul E. White

FEB:1b

cc: R. J. Boyle - Indpls. ✓

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